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PROVINCETOWN'S AMBERGRIS KING

David C. Stull Has Bought Three Quarters of a Ton in Lifetime.

David C. Stull of Provincetown is known as the "Ambergris king." Whenever ambergris is discovered along the seacoast (which is seldom) Mr. Stull is more likely to be consulted regarding it than any other man. He has been buying ambergris for years, as agent for a famous French perfume house. It is said that in the entire history of the world only approximately one ton and a half of ambergris have been offered for sale, and Mr. Stull has bought more than half that amount.

This peculiar substance is found so seldom that there are few men familiar enough with its appearance to identify it and few who know the tests to apply to determine whether or not it is ambergris. Many waxy substitutes are picked up at sea and on the beach from time to time and the discoverers believe they have lighted on a fortune, only to find later that the matter is about as valuable as so much candle grease or vaseline. There are other secretion thrown off by the whales that somewhat resemble this precious substance, but only the sperm whale produces the real ambergris. So the man who knows what ambergris is and what it is worth is the man most likely to be consulted whenever any such piece of jetsam is thrown up on the beach.

Mr. Stull is not a naturalist and not an authority on whales, but he knows the whale products probably better than any other man in the world. In his laboratory at Provincetown, he has for years been producing the finest quality of lubricating oil. Sailors know that they owe much to him, for his laboratory produces the emollient that lubricates the delicate machinery of the beacon lights along the coast. In fact Mr. Stull is as much of a magnate in the business of delicate lubricating oil as Rockefeller is in the coarser product drawn from the earth, and while his operations are not as extensive and he has never been accused of forming a trust and driving his competitors from business, he has a monopoly of his own, a monopoly not based on the force of organization or capital, but on the power of his own brain and the skill of his secret processes.

He takes the head oil from the jaw of the porpoise and the oil from a peculiar cushion at the top of the skull of the blackfish known as the "melon," and through his process of refinings converts it into a product worth \$60 a gallon. The "melon" oil cost about \$10 a gallon in the crude as he buys it on board ship. It has advanced largely in recent years owing to the growing scarcity of the fish from which it is taken, and the price will probably never grow less.

Ambergris itself is a peculiar substance, presumed to be produced by indigestion or biliary irritation in the interior of the whale. It will float for a short time and then sinks in the water, so there is no doubt that many valuable bits of it have been lost, having sunk before they were discovered. Its principal use is in the making of perfumes and it is for the French perfumers that Mr. Stull acts as purchasing agent. The market is never overstocked, and the price for a high grade has sometimes been as great as \$500 a pound.

Gold has long been regarded as the most costly of metals, though it has been supplanted by others in recent years. A nugget of gold found some years ago weighed 184 pounds and netted the fortunate discoverer \$46,000. Had it been pure ambergris, a lump of that weight would have been worth \$92,000. This will serve to give some relative idea of the value of the castoff product of the whale. Mr. Stull has paid as high as \$35,000 for a single lot of ambergris, but this was in several pieces, not in one lump. He uses little of the substance himself, but sends the most of it immediately to France, where the finest perfumes in the world are made. The French perfumers are not very active now, as the war has interrupted their industry, as well as all others, but ambergris retains its value, as it can be kept for years in good condition with very little attention.

It is said that the largest single find of ambergris was that made by Capt. J. A. M. Earle of Mattapoisett. While he was in command of the bark Splendid, sailing from Dunedin, N. Z., he took from a sperm whale a piece weighing over 900 pounds. After the usual shrinkage it weighed 872 pounds, and was sold for \$125,000, but that large amount so disturbed the market that it was several years before it was all disposed of.

ST. PIERRE MEN BACK TO FISH

Seventy-seven of the 360 men of the little Islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon who left their homes last February for France to serve in the army and navy are now returning to the islands. They arrived at Halifax late Monday night, by the Red Cross liner Stephano from New York, and will go from here on that steamer to St. Pierre. They say that after they had been in France for some time it was decided to send back to St. Pierre, all those who were over 35 years of age. The islands had been depleted of all able bodied men and the fishing industry, its sole support, was almost at a standstill. These 77 men, over 35 years of age accordingly sailed from Havre on April 25, on the str. Bordeaux for New York and from the American port to Halifax by the Stephano. Four of the men will go to Montreal and the remainder will sail on the Red Cross liner for St. Pierre.

Vessel Spoken.

Sch. Imperator, Capt. William Firth, was spoken in the "Gully" recently by sch. John Hays Hammond. The Imperator took a baiting at the Magdalenes.

May 21

ANDROSCOGGIN TO BE REPAIRED

The coast guard cutter cutter Androscoggin, which has been engaged for the past six months in hospital duty among the fishing fleets on the provincial coast, has been ordered by the Treasury Department to proceed to Baltimore at once for repairs, she having received slight damages above the water line about a week ago by collision with a coasting vessel in the harbor of Port Hawkesbury, C. B. The Androscoggin had been expected to return to Portland about May 20, and was to have gone to Baltimore in any event to undergo a general overhauling, her service as a hospital ship being probably suspended until another winter.

Bringing Cod Here.

Sch. Montana left Cape Ray, N. F. Friday for this port taking 325,000 lbs. salt bulk codfish shipped by Mr. J. Hackett.

Chinese Boycott Japanese Fishermen.

As a result of the troubles between the Chinese and Japanese in China, the Chinese fish peddlers in Vancouver declared a boycott on the Japanese cod fishermen, refusing to buy any codfish caught by the Japanese. The result of this boycott has been to practically paralyze the Japanese cod fishermen in their operations, with the result that a large number of white men are now fishing for cod and supplying the Chinese peddlers.

Floated the Monitor.

The sch. Monitor, which went ashore at Codroy last fall, has been refloated and was towed from there to Bay of Islands last week.—Western Star, May 12.

May 22.

Halibut Sale

The Georges halibut fare of sch. Claudia sold to the New England Fish company for eight and one-half cents per pound for white and six and one-half cents for gray.

Baited at Edgartown.

Sch. Natalie Hammond arrived at Edgartown, Wednesday for bait. Alewives are reported plenty at that place, selling at \$1.50 a barrel.

"RANG BELL" ON HANDLINE TRIP

Sch. Claudia, Capt. Andrew Gouvereau, stocked \$2821 on her handlining trip from which she arrived yesterday. The high line share was \$100. This is the best trip of the year and was exceeded only once last year when Capt. Gouvereau stocked \$3063 from 46,000 pounds salt cod and 7000 pounds of fresh halibut. The Claudia is one of the Sylvanus Smith Co., inc. fleet.

May 22

MANY MEN HERE TO GO FISHING

Within the past few days, it is estimated that over 100 men have arrived here from Nova Scotia where the winter season is now practically over. As a result, there is now an abundance of men and the shortage which handicapped the fleet of trawlers but a short time ago is now ended and skippers are now able to select their crews from scores of applicants.

PLENTY BAIT AT THE MAGDALEN

Amherst Harbor, May 19—Plenty herring at Etangdunord, Hospital and Grand Entry, none reported anywhere else, lots of vessels baiting every day getting pretty well cleared out. Queensport, May 19—Herring scarce today. Souris, May 19—North coast and East Point report close packed, eastern coast report distant ice, herring scarce.

May 22.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.25 per cwt.; medium, \$3.75; small, \$3.25.
Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4; medium, \$3.50.
Drift codfish, large, \$4; medium, \$3.50.
Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$2.
Snappers, \$1.50.
Hake, \$1.50.
Haddock, \$1.75.
Pollock, \$1.75.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:
Haddock, \$1 per cwt.
Western cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.60; snappers, 75c.
Eastern cod, large, \$1.90; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.
Drift codfish, large, \$2; medium, \$1.60.
All codfish, not gilled, 10c per pound less than above.
Peak cod, \$1.80 for large; medium, \$1.40.
Hake, \$1.
Cusk, large, \$1.50; medium, \$1; snappers, 50c.
Shore pollock, round, 90c; dressed, \$1.
Fresh halibut 8 1-2c per lb. white, 6 1-2c for gray.
Fresh herring, \$2.50 per bbl. for \$2 to freeze; \$1.50 to salt.

May 22
**SALT DRIFTERS
ARE DOING WELL**

Two Crafts Here This Morning Each Hailing for 60,000 Pounds.

Two more of the salt drifters are here this morning, both with trips of 60,000 pounds each of salt cod, among the finest of the season. They are schs. Eugenia, Capt. John Williams and Ralph Russell, Capt. Leander Phalen. More pollock and herring were landed yesterday afternoon and evening, the former going to split, while the herring was taken by the bait buyers. Less than 10,000 pounds mixed fish was the total landed by the gill netters yesterday. The dogfish are commencing to show up more plentiful, although as yet, they have not been a serious menace to the fishermen.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:
Str. Quartette, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Julia May, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Lorena, gill netting, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Medomak, gill netting, 1800 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Independence, seining, 30 bbls. fresh herring.
Str. Naomi Bruce, seining, 30 bbls. fresh herring.
Str. Lena W., seining, 72 bbls. fresh herring.
Str. Alice, seining, 14,000 lbs. fresh pollock.
Str. Advance, seining, 4000 lbs. fresh pollock.
Str. Unknown, seining, 8000 lbs. fresh pollock.
Str. Beatrice E., seining, 5000 lbs. fresh pollock.
Sch. Arbitrator, via Boston.
Sch. J. M. Marshall (new), Essex.
Sch. Eugenia, drifting, 60,000 lbs. salt cod.
Sch. Ralph Russell, drifting, 60,000 lbs. salt cod.

Vessels Sailed.
Sch. Leonora Silveria, shacking.
Sch. Mary P. Goulart, shacking.
Sch. Catherine Burke, halibuting.
Sch. Georgia, halibuting.
Sch. Rob Roy, Cape Shore mackerel seining.
Sch. Ralph L. Hall, Cape Shore mackerel seining.
Sch. Mary E. Harty, Cape Shore mackerel seining.
Sch. Marguerite Haskins, Cape Shore mackerel seining.
Sch. Arthur James, Cape Shore mackerel seining.
Sch. Marsala, Cape Shore mackerel seining.

Baited at Edgartown.
Sch. Natalie Hammond baited and sailed from Edgartown, Thursday.

May 22
**CORKUM'S CREW
GOT \$329 EACH**

Biggest Share Ever Made by Mackerel Seiner in Southern Season—No Schools on Cape Shore Yet—Many Netters at Newport.

Each of the crew of steamer Lois H. Corkum, Capt. William Corkum, received yesterday afternoon \$329.01 as their share of the stock of \$3285.74 made south this spring. This is the best share ever made on a southern mackerel trip by a seiner. The large share is accounted for by the fact that the steamer does not carry as men as the larger schooners.

Capt. Corkum will return to the southward instead of going to the Cape Shore. Capt. Elroy Prior in steamer Thelma has also decided to stay south instead of making the Cape Shore trip. Capt. Corkum as well as his crew were kept busy yesterday acknowledging congratulations on breaking all previous big share records.

No School on Cape Shore Yet.

A letter from D. G. Mulhall of Liverpool, N. S., to the Times, says that sch. Romance, Capt. Almon D. Mallock arrived at that port Wednesday, being the first seiner of the season to put in there. Capt. Mallock arrived directly from the south and reports bad weather the past week and saw no fish. No mackerel have yet been reported off the Nova Scotia coast.

Big Netting Fleet in Newport.

A big fleet of netters are at Newport this morning, it being the best mackerel day there since the season opened. In all, 39 crafts were in with a total of over 35,000 fish in count.

The arrivals in detail are:

Jackson and Arthur, 1700 fresh mackerel.
William H. Reed, 600 fresh mackerel.
Frances Willett, 500 fresh mackerel.
Reliance, 1800 fresh mackerel.
Clara T., 200 fresh mackerel.
Aquidneck, 1100 fresh mackerel.
Alva Brown, 700 fresh mackerel.
Louise, 400 fresh mackerel.
Natalie, 700 fresh mackerel.
Priscilla, 500 fresh mackerel.
Florida, 1100 fresh mackerel.
Harry and Thelma, 2200 fresh mackerel.
Hester, 500 fresh mackerel.
Hamlin, 400 fresh mackerel.
Amarald, 800 fresh mackerel.
Thelma, 400 fresh mackerel.
Progress, 2200 fresh mackerel.

Lafayette, 1900 fresh mackerel.
Atlantic, 1500 fresh mackerel.
Crusader, 1000 fresh mackerel.
Two Sisters, 1200 fresh mackerel.
Klondike, 380 fresh mackerel.
Dart, 350 fresh mackerel.
Irene, 200 fresh mackerel.
Azorian, 200 fresh mackerel.
Mabel E. Leavitt, 1500 fresh mackerel.
Lillian, 300 fresh mackerel.
Magnolia, 500 fresh mackerel.
Rusakla, 900 fresh mackerel.
Motor, 1200 fresh mackerel.
Mettacomet, 1800 fresh mackerel.
Sea Queen, 1600 fresh mackerel.
Eliza Benner, 700 fresh mackerel.
Blanche F. Irving, 600 fresh mackerel.
Sylvester, 400 fresh mackerel.
Lear C., 370 fresh mackerel.
Hockomock, 781 fresh mackerel.
Joker 11, 300 fresh mackerel.
Portuguese craft, 60 fresh mackerel.

May 22
**BUT ONE LITTLE
BOAT IN BOSTON**

Only one arrival was at Boston this morning, sch. Georgianna having 2300 cod. Yesterday afternoon two small shore fares and one off shore reported at the new pier.

Prices, wholesale, were \$3 to \$3.25 a hundred for haddock, \$2.50 to \$2.75 for large, and \$1.75 for market cod, \$1 to \$1.75 for hake, \$1.50 for pollock, \$1.50 for cusk.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

ARRIVALS AT BOSTON FISH PIER.
Sch. Georgianna, 2300 cod.
Sch. Flavilla, 8000 haddock, 8500 cod, 1700 pollock.
Sch. Marion, 1900 cod.
Sch. Elva L. Spurling, 2000 haddock, 2500 cod, 20,000 hake, 40,000 cusk.
Haddock, \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt.; large cod, \$2.50 to \$2.75; market cod, \$1.75; hake, \$1 to \$1.75; pollock, \$1.50; cusk, \$1.50.

May 24.

**SALT DRIFTERS
ARE DOING WELL**

Sch. Eugenia, Capt. John Williams, of the Sylvanus Smith Co., Inc., fleet of salt drifters, stocked \$2041 on the recent trip.

Sch. Ralph Russell, Capt. Leander Phalen, stocked \$2099.18, the high line share was \$76.35, and the cook made \$109.56. The Ralph Russell is one of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company's fleet.

French Banker Over.

The first arrival of the French fleet of sailing vessels in port this season was the topsail schooner Superior, which arrived from the banks Saturday. She sailed from France a month ago, and after fishing for a short time on the banks, came here for bait, which she secured from the local fishermen, and sailed Monday afternoon to resume her work.—North Sydney C. B. Herald.

Dominion Bait and Ice Report.

Queensport, May 20—Herring fair today; no vessels.

Souris, May 20—North coast reports ice scattered by wind and tide, but large fields visible eastern coast, distinct ice only. Herring plentiful at Murray Harbor.

Amherst Harbor, May 20—Herring reported at Etang Dunord, Grand Entry and Grindstone in traps. Ice is about all gone away.